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House Bill _____
By _____

Senate No. SB1715
By Henry

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6
, relative to early childhood education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-101, is amended by deleting subsection (f) and by substituting instead the following:

(f)(1) Through a system of competitive grants and technical assistance, the state shall incrementally establish and shall administer and monitor a pilot network of community based, early childhood education and prekindergarten programs. The purpose of such pilot network shall be to encourage and assist expansion and continuation of quality programs to comprehensively address the educational, health and social service needs of unserved children, ages three (3) and four (4), who are at risk of educational disadvantage and failure due to circumstances of abuse, neglect, disability or family dysfunction or who live below the poverty line determined pursuant to 42 United States Code, Section 9847.

(2) All early childhood education and prekindergarten programs within the pilot network must be family-focused, must be community based and must reflect the highest

level of coordination and cooperation among existing programs, services, and resources within the community. All programs within the pilot network must provide full-day, full-year services which include a daily component of developmentally appropriate educational activities as well as child care for the children of parents who need extended day services.

(3) The state shall appoint an advisory council on early childhood education and services to make recommendations to state agencies concerning implementation of this act. Each program within the pilot network shall also appoint a local advisory council on early childhood education and services to make recommendations to the community based program. The membership of the state advisory council and the membership of each local advisory council shall be broadly representative of the various community based organizations and entities providing services to children identified within subdivision (f)(1).

(4) Acting in accordance with the provisions of Tennessee Code Annotated, Sections 4-5-203 through 205, the state board of education shall promulgate such rules as shall be reasonably necessary to effectively and efficiently implement the provisions of this act. Such rules shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, policies governing staff qualifications and training, including reasonable timelines for programs within the pilot network to attain staff qualifications and training required by such rules.

(5) At least once each year, a report of findings and recommendations shall be submitted to the governor, state board of education and general assembly.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect on July 1, 1995, the public welfare requiring it.